



FEMA



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Aug. 12, 2013

NR 001 DR-4121-MI

MSP/EMHSD Contact: (517) 336-6464

FEMA Contact: (518) 657-9107

ONE WEEK LEFT FOR COMMUNITIES TO REQUEST FEDERAL FUNDS FOR FLOODING DAMAGE

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. — Local governments, county agencies and certain private nonprofit organizations in 16 Michigan counties have one week remaining to apply for federal disaster funds for the severe flood damage that occurred from April 16 to May 14, 2013. The affected counties are Allegan, Baraga, Barry, Gogebic, Houghton, Ionia, Kent, Keweenaw, Marquette, Midland, Muskegon, Newaygo, Ontonagon, Osceola, Ottawa and Saginaw.

President Barack Obama declared a major disaster area for the 16 counties on June 18, 2013, making public assistance available in the form of grants to those impacted local governments and eligible nonprofit organizations. Projects covered include debris removal, emergency protective measures, and permanent restoration of public facilities and infrastructure.

Those entities that are eligible and want to apply for aid must complete and submit a Request for Public Assistance (RPA) form to the Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (MSP/EMHSD) by Aug. 17, 2013. After the MSP/EMHSD receives the RPA form, state and federal agencies will provide one-on-one assistance to discuss damages, assess needs and put a plan of action in place.

“We want to make sure all eligible local governments and private nonprofit organizations have the opportunity to complete and submit this form,” said Capt. Chris A. Kelenske, commander of the MSP/EMHSD. “It only takes a few minutes to complete and begins the process so communities can receive the dollars they need to recover and rebuild.”

In July, representatives from the MSP/EMHSD and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) conducted applicant briefings with community officials throughout the affected disaster areas in Michigan’s Upper and Lower Peninsulas. These meetings addressed application procedures, administrative requirements, funding and program eligibility.

Public officials and other eligible applicants who want to file an RPA form on behalf of their community or private nonprofit organization should call the MSP/EMHSD at (888) 363-8632 for more information.

###

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.